

# February Spotlight Newsletter 2026



## Principal Message - Mr. Runco

February is shaping up to be an exciting and eventful month at FX, filled with opportunities to learn, reflect, celebrate, and come together as a community.

We begin the month by recognizing Random Acts of Kindness, encouraging our students and staff to live out our FX values through compassion and service to others. February is also Black History Month, and we are proud to mark this important time with the launch of our Black School Alliance (BSA) on February 2 during Flex. This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to equity, belonging, and celebrating the rich diversity within our school community.

This month, we also celebrate Chinese New Year, recognizing the cultural traditions and contributions of our families and students who observe this special time.

As a faith community, February leads us into the Lenten season. We will recognize Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, taking time as an FX family to reflect, pray, and prepare our hearts during this meaningful season.

School spirit and service will be front and center with our Heroes on Wheels Bike-A-Thon. The kick-off takes place during Flex on February 3, building excitement for the official 24-hour Bike-A-Thon on March 13. We look forward to seeing our community rally around this wonderful event. We encourage parents and guardians to join us for our next School Council Meeting on February 11 at 6:00 p.m. Your voice and partnership are valued, and we appreciate your continued involvement.

On February 18 beginning at 6:00 p.m., we are excited to welcome prospective families to our Advanced Placement, Sport Academy, and General FX Open House. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase all that makes FX such a vibrant place to learn.

Please note that there will be no school for students on the following dates:

- February 19 – FX PD Day
- February 25 – Faith Development Day
- February 26 & 27 – Teachers' Convention

Thank you for your ongoing support and engagement. February truly reflects the heart of FX—faith, learning, service, and community—and we look forward to all that this month has to offer.

Warm regards,

Fernando Runco, Principal  
St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School



### Archbishop Stephen Hero

Welcoming Archbishop Stephen Hero  
We are excited to welcome Archbishop Stephen Hero as the new shepherd of the Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Click on the link view **Chief Superintendent** February Message:

<https://www.ecsd.net/2abc34b0-35f1-4f84-98b6-d968fd9d280c>

A promotional graphic for the new archbishop. It features a large, stylized illustration of a yellow church with a red roof and two towers. To the right is a portrait of Archbishop Stephen Hero, a man with grey hair, wearing a purple papal vestment and a pectoral. The text "Meet Our New Archbishop!" is written in large, gold-colored letters above a teal banner that says "Archbishop Stephen Hero". A small cross icon is in the top right corner.



**OPEN HOUSE  
FEBRUARY 18  
AT 6:00 PM**

**STFX.COM  
9250 163 STREET NW**

**ACADEMICS, ADVANCED PLACEMENT, AND SPORT ACADEMIES**



## **St. FX School Advisory Council**

We encourage parents and guardians to join us for our next School Council Meeting on **February 11 at 6:00 p.m.** Your voice and partnership are valued, and we appreciate your continued involvement.



Our FX School Council are looking for Casino Volunteers for **March 24 and 25, 2026**. We would very much appreciate parent volunteers to help us raise money for St. Francis Xavier Catholic High School. Please use the link below to sign up:

Sign up Genius link:

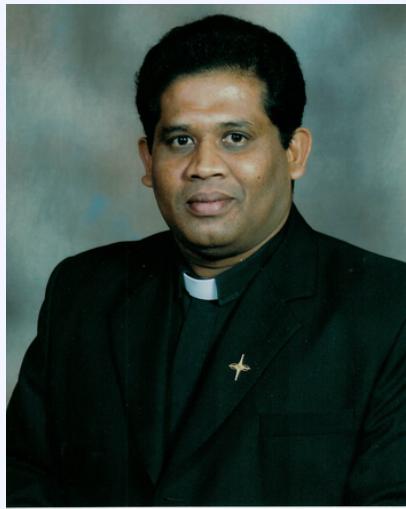
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0545AEA72AA6FFCE9-58990884-stfrancis>

## **Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday, February 25, 2026!**



Pink Shirt Day is Wednesday, February 25, 2026. The movement began in 2007 when a student in Nova Scotia was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. It has been recognized annually worldwide as a day to stand against bullying. We at FX strive to be inclusive, welcoming, and supportive with our RAMFAM, friends, guests, and family.

# Religion Spotlight



Thank you to Fr. Francis Mariappa for continuing to allow us access to the Annunciation Parish parking lot west of the church.

Let's make sure we are continuing to respecting the space and keep it clean.

Please note you must reserve a stall at the FX main office; parking is assigned.

Please access the Annunciation Parish bulletins [here](#).

## Advent Food Drive



**Wow! Did we ever deliver!**

As a school community, we raised over \$1200 for the Food Pantry hosted by the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVP), Annunciation Conference. This Food Pantry is run out of Annunciation Parish and offered to community members every second Thursday. As if the monetary donation was not enough, we also delivered the largest one-time donation of non-perishable food that SSVP, Annunciation Conference has seen in years! We crushed it! Select classes and students volunteered to deliver the food to Annunciation Parish and help sort it with the SSVP volunteers. Thank you for your generosity and acts of service!

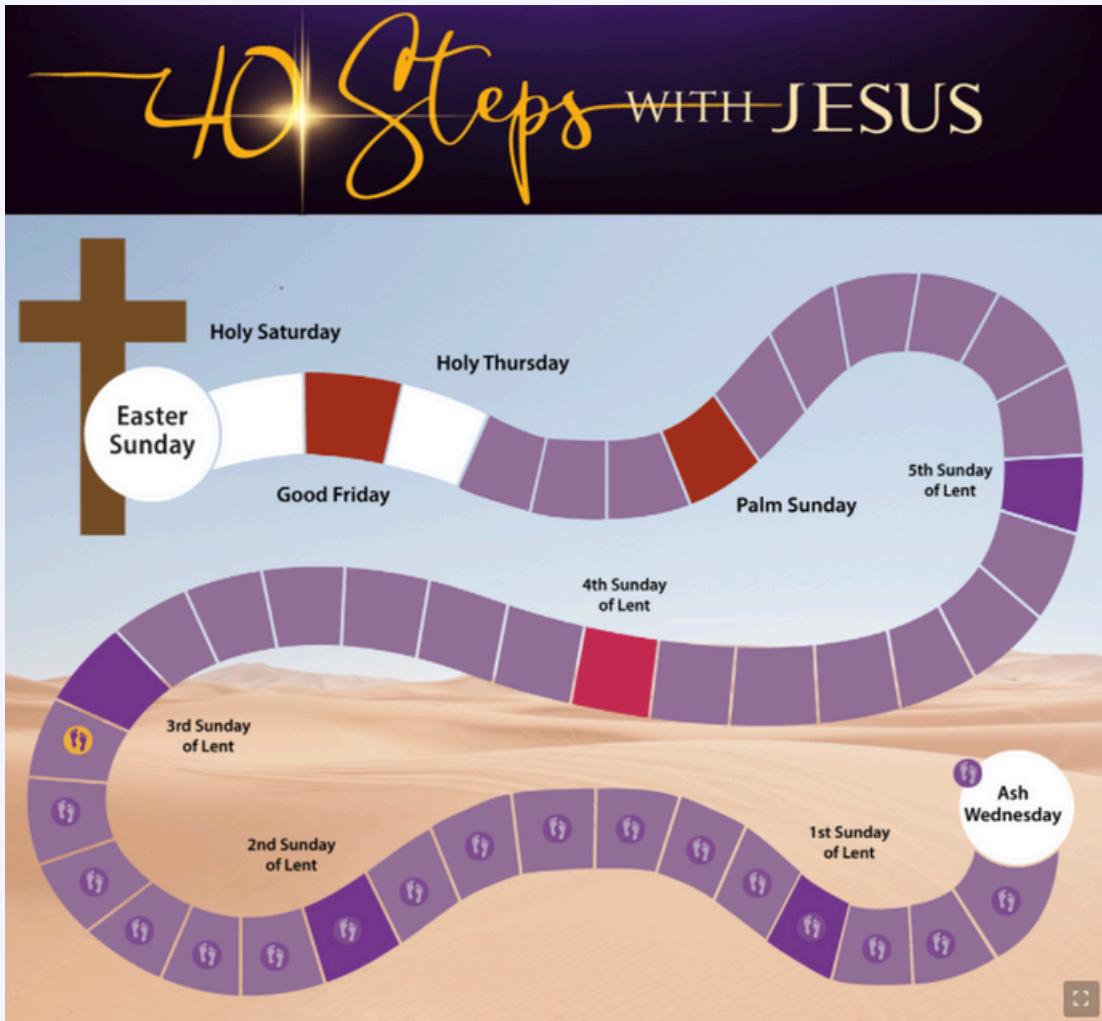
## World Religion Timeline

Mr. Abbott's Religion 25 class created a Religion Timeline before Christmas that they posted on a bulletin board in their classroom.

The goal was for them to gain a more thorough worldview by understanding the origin of several religions and how their core teachings relate to Catholicism.



# Lent



Lent is a 40-day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 18, 2026) and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It is a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer, we serve by giving alms, and we practice self-control through fasting.

We will host an Ash Wednesday Liturgy for staff and students in our main Mike Dea Gym on February 18th.



## HP Hockey Academy Spotlight



As we move into February, our High Performance Hockey Academy continues to thrive in a demanding, fast-paced environment. Many athletes are deep into their seasons, balancing heavy game schedules, travel, and academics while remaining committed to their development on and off the ice. Despite the workload, the group has stayed disciplined at Archetype training and on the ice, focusing on strength, speed, and skill. February will emphasize team-building and recovery, with athletes prioritizing mobility, stretching, and mental reset to manage fatigue and stay healthy. As the month progresses, the focus remains on building momentum, strengthening habits, and being prepared when their teams need them most.

## Hockey Academy Spotlight



January marked a strong finish to a successful semester in our Hockey Academy. We wrapped up the term with our annual skills competition, followed by the always-anticipated Turcotte Cup—our full-ice, 3-on-3 tournament that showcases creativity, compete level, and teamwork. Throughout the semester, our athletes demonstrated consistent growth in their skill development, game awareness, and overall approach to training. The group's commitment, attitude, and willingness to push themselves made them a true pleasure to coach. We are proud of the progress they've made and look forward to carrying that momentum into Semester 2.

## Baseball Academy Spotlight



The Baseball Academy has had an exciting start to the new year! We recently added a brand-new pitching machine and a Rapsodo unit to our training tools, and athletes have already had the chance to test both out. These upgrades will allow us to begin collecting performance data soon, helping players better understand their pitching and hitting metrics while tracking their development over time. After a short break from throwing over the Christmas holidays, athletes are now easing back in with our structured throwing program as we build arm strength and prepare for the season ahead. Lots of great progress is already underway!

## Soccer Academy Spotlight



This year in the FX Soccer Academy the coaches have been awarding a player of the month. The Franco Saporito Player of the Month winners have been recognized for their exemplary training skills, habits, and attitude.

Our winners so far include:

Senior Boys Academy-Daniel T., Charlie N., Sam D., Kuzi M.

Girls Academy - Portia L., Sadie W., Taliya M., Aliah K.,

Junior Boys Academy - Cosmin S., Cristian B., Treffen A., and Cormac P.

# English Spotlight

## Semester 2 is here!

### DIPLOMAS ARE BACK TOO!!!

PART A (WRITTEN) - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

PART B (READING) - MONDAY, JUNE 15



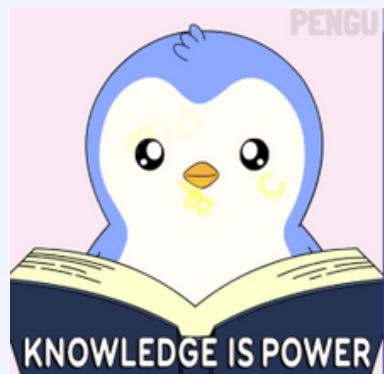
A big change to the Diploma is that it is FULLY digital (ALL ON VRETTA). The Reading Comprehension section will be done on the Chromebook (No PAPER COPY). Throughout the semester we will be practicing annotation with a digital format.

# Social Studies Spotlight

### Semester 2 is here!

Diplomas and finals are back - Some tips to keep in mind to keep you on track this semester.

1. Get organized - keep track of all assignments due dates and major exams/essays throughout the semester. Being organized early will prevent stress later and helps you stay on top of work before it piles up.
2. Create a consistent routine - pick a time every night to review material (30-45 mins). Routine builds good habits and makes school work more manageable.
3. Ask for help early - If something doesn't make sense ask questions in class or during flex. Getting clarification early saves time, improves your understanding, and shows you are responsible for your success.



# CTS & Fine Arts Spotlight

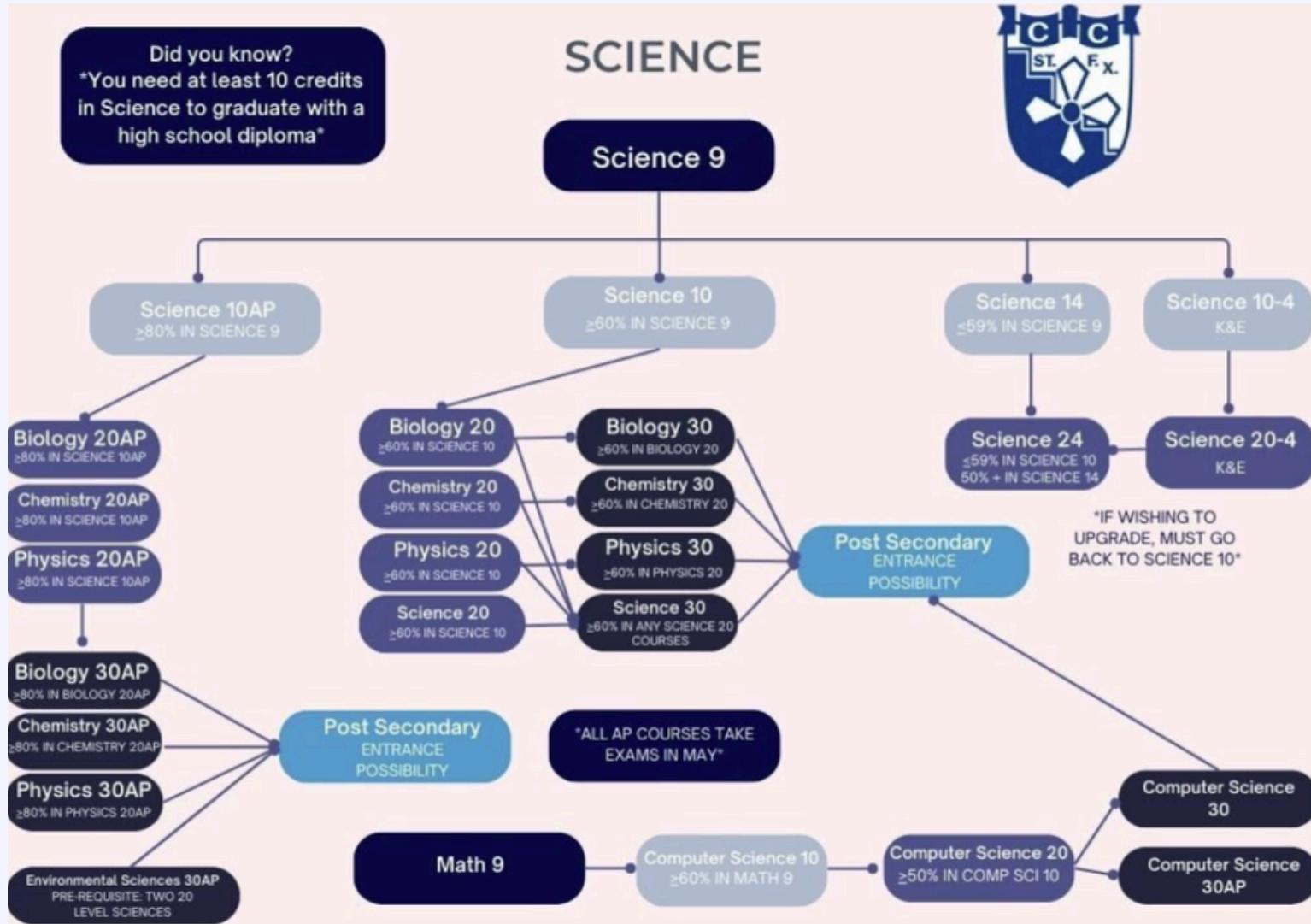
On January 9th, our CTS department proudly held its first-ever Fine Arts Night, featuring performances and artwork from our Drama, Music, and Art students. It was a wonderful celebration of creativity and student talent, and we are excited to build on this success again next year!



# Science Spotlight

## Which science courses do I need to take?

This depends on what you would like to do after High School. The Science requirement for the Alberta Diploma is 10 credits (any 2 science courses). Many Post-Secondary programs will take Science 30 as a prerequisite and you can take Science 30 after completing Science 20, Biology 20, Chemistry 20 or Physics 20.



# Math Spotlight



Tips for Success this semester in Math:

- Attend class daily (and on time)
- Complete homework regularly
- Check the Google Classroom for updates
- Ask questions during class
- Get some extra help during FLEX

# Advanced Placement Spotlight

## Advanced Placement



### What to Know About AP Exams

AP Exams are standardized exams designed to measure how well students mastered the content and skills of a specific AP course. Most AP courses have an end-of-year exam, but a few courses have different ways to assess what you've learned. Find dates for your AP courses below.

AP Exam Schedule		
Week 1	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 p.m.
5-May-25	Mon Biology	
6-May-25	Tue Chemistry	
7-May-25	Wed English Literature and Composition	
8-May-25	Thu	
9-May-25	Fri	

Week 2	Morning 8 a.m.	Afternoon 12 p.m.
12-May-25	Mon Calculus AB	Seminar
13-May-25	Tue	Physics 2
14-May-25	Wed	
15-May-25	Thu	Computer Science Principles
16-May-25	Fri Physics 1	Psychology

This year, AP Exams will be given digitally in Bluebook. The digital AP Exams can be either fully digital or hybrid digital depending on the subject.



<https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/ap-exams-what-to-know/digital-testing-exam-modes>

## Pre-enrolment at FX for 2026-27



EDMONTON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Pre-Enrolment for  
**CURRENT STUDENTS**

- Log in to [PowerSchool.ecsd.net](https://PowerSchool.ecsd.net)
- Click on the Pre-Enrolment for Next Year icon
- Follow the instructions to select your 2026-2027 school
- Complete for each child registered with ECSD

Visit [ecsd.net](https://ecsd.net) for more information



# School Resource Officer Spotlight



## YOUTH RECRUIT ACADEMY

The EPS Youth Recruit Academy (YRA) offers an exciting opportunity to high school students from Grades 10-12 to get a glimpse into the world of policing. Gain insight to specialized areas such as Tactical, Air One, Forensics, & Canine.

Students that are interested, come talk to me about the program & how you can improve your application in this competitive process.

\*Applications Open Now, closing date February 27, 2026  
Posters with QR codes are hung throughout the school

Spring Program: March 30-April 2, 2026

Summer Program: July 27-31, 2026



## Take Drivers Ed right here at FX



All On-line



Whenever its  
convenient for you

Learners Prep Course  
6 Hours on-line  
\$40 (regular \$70)

New Drivers Course  
15 Hours on-line  
\$40 (regular \$211)



See Mr Bauer in LC for more info



# English as an Additional Language Spotlight: Careers

Covenant Health is excited to invite students to an event designed to spark interest in healthcare careers and provide interactive learning opportunities. This interactive career fair is tailored for Grade 10 to 12 students who are curious about careers in health care.

Students will:

Hear the career journeys and educational pathways of healthcare professionals including:

Occupational and Physical Therapy

Speech Language Pathology

Audiology

Diagnostic Imaging

Dentistry

Facilities Maintenance

and many others!

Try out interactive skill stations

Tour real clinic spaces and see what working in health care looks like



No registration is required. Students can drop in anytime during event hours.

Event: High school health care career expo

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Covenant Community Health Centre,

7319 29 Ave NW, Edmonton

## EMPLOYMENT READINESS

FREE 4 Interactive Sessions

ACCESS TO HIRING EVENTS UPON COMPLETION OF ALL 4 SESSIONS!

Build the confidence & gain the skills you need to find & keep a job!

For newcomer youth (ages 15-25)

### Session Topics Include:

- Workplace Culture in Canada
- Interviews & the Job Market
- Resumes & Cover Letter
- Job Search



### For more information:

✉ youth@a4hc.ca

☎ (587) 357-2172

Scan the QR code to pick a date and time that works for you!

SCAN ME! »



Click here: Action For Healthy Communities Form - sign up for a session

## Boys & Girls Club, Big Sisters/Big Brothers Taking Feedback for Teen Take Over



The graphic for the BGCBigs Teen Takeover event features the BGCBigs logo at the top left. The main text "TEEN TAKEOVER" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, yellow and green font. Below this, the text "Meet the Youth Executive Council" is written in a green font. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a diverse group of teenagers. A large green arrow points to the right, with the word "REGISTER" written in white on its side.

BGCBigs is asking for feedback from teens about what they would like to see at this year's Teen Take Over event. They are also gathering their contact info so they can be contacted as soon as the free tickets become available. This event is extremely popular among newcomer high school students - they give away prizes all day:) This event occurs on March 30th during spring break. The event is held at East Glen High school but is open to all ECSD students. Sign up here: Please fill out this form

BGCBigs Teen Takeover March 30th 2026  
Join us for a day of career mentorship, networking, prizes, and job searching!

# Athletic Spotlight



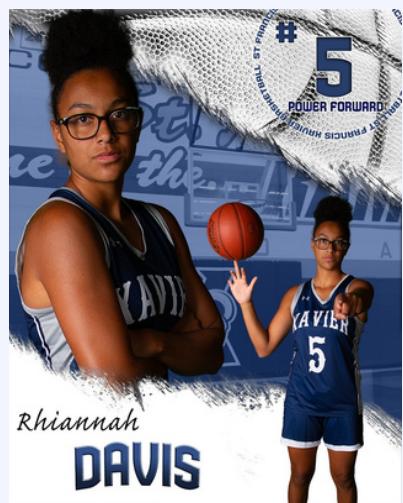
Congratulations to the Swim Team who competed at the Metro Swim Championships!

The Sr Girls are currently in 1st place in Division 2! The team won silver at the Leduc Tournament!



## FX Metro Athlete of the Week

**Rhiannah D.**



# Athletic Spotlight



**Sr Boys Basketball are currently in 1st Place in Metro Athletics Division 1!**



**The Jr Boys Basketball Team won Gold at the Louis St Laurent Tournament!**



**The Jr Girls are playing in Division 1 this season, they are doing great! The Team won Bronze at the ABJ Jordan Jr Jam in December!**



# Phys.Ed Spotlight

PE 30- Field trips to Victoria Oval for skating and billiards at Gateway Lanes

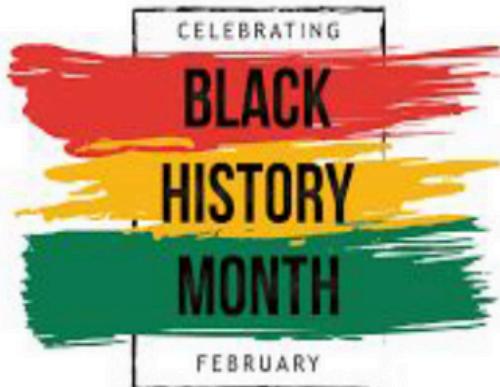


PE 20- Skating at Victoria Oval and Rock Jungle Gym



PE 20 & 30- Activate, billiards, & fitness





Throughout February, our staff and students are proudly recognizing and celebrating Black History Month. This is a chance for our Division to honour the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.

Edmonton Catholic Schools consultants have shared many opportunities and rich resources with our staff so that they can learn and explore more about Black History in Canada and around the world.



## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Black School Alliance Launch	3 Bike-A-thon Kick Off	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 School Council Meeting – 6pm	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Family Day NO SCHOOL	17 Shrove Tuesday Chinese New Year	18 Ash Wednesday FX OPEN HOUSE 6pm	19 FX PD Day NO SCHOOL for students	20	21
22	23	24 Faith Development Day NO SCHOOL for students	25 Teachers' Convention NO SCHOOL for students	26 Teachers' Convention NO SCHOOL for students	27	28

# Graduation Coach Spotlight



## *How to get on the Grad List?*

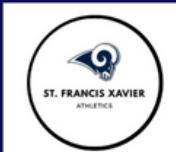
NOTE: Students must be on the grad list to purchase grad tickets and attend commencements

1. **Alberta Grad Requirements:** You must be scheduled for and passing all the courses required to graduate according to the Alberta Education Requirements.
2. **Religion:** You need to have 9 credits in Religion (or 1 Religion for every year you attended a Catholic School) to be eligible for participating in the graduation ceremonies at St. Francis Xavier.
3. **School Fees:** In order to purchase banquet tickets, fees must be paid at the Bookstore.



**STAY UP TO DATE**

@FX.ATHLETICS @STFXHIGHEDM @XAVIER.UNION



# Exam Procedures at St. FX

At St. FX, our mission is rooted in the formation of the whole person. This means academically, spiritually, and morally. As a Catholic learning community, we believe that integrity, honesty, and personal responsibility are essential virtues that guide our students in their academic work and in their lives beyond high school. Academic honesty is not only a school expectation; it reflects our shared Gospel values and a commitment to truth, justice, and fairness.

In recent years, schools have experienced increased challenges related to academic dishonesty during formal assessments. This has a major impact on our school community and the future of our students as they move on from high school. To support student learning while upholding the integrity of our assessment practices, St. FX will be implementing new exam procedures for all classrooms during secured assessments. These procedures are designed to closely mirror diploma exam standards, providing students with a consistent and realistic testing environment that prepares them for provincial exams and future academic expectations.

By establishing these procedures, we aim to promote fairness for all students, support academic credibility, and reinforce the values of honesty and responsibility that are central to our Catholic identity.

## **The following will be implemented:**

### Prior to the exam starting:

- No electronic devices of any kind are permitted in the examination room, including but not limited to cell phones, smart watches, AI-enabled glasses (including prescription smart glasses), tablets, earbuds, headphones, or any device or software capable of communication, recording, data storage, or artificial-intelligence assistance. All such items must be powered off and stored in a locker or bag prior to entering the examination room. This restriction does not apply only to students with documented medical accommodations approved by school administration, and such devices may be used strictly for medical purposes only.
- No personal belongings are permitted at student desks during the examination. This includes, but is not limited to, bags, backpacks, purses, pencil cases, and wallets. All personal items must be stored in a locker or placed in a designated area at the front of the room as directed by staff.
- Hats, hoods, and head coverings not required for approved religious or medical reasons are not permitted during the examination. Large coats, jackets, or vests are also not permitted and must be stored in a locker or placed at the front of the room prior to the start of the exam.
- The items listed above are not exhaustive, and school administration reserves the right to prohibit any item deemed to compromise examination integrity, security, or fairness. Students are responsible for asking for clarification before the examination begins if they are unsure about the permissibility of any item. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in removal from the examination, invalidation of the assessment, or further consequences in accordance with school and board policy.

# Exam Procedures at St. FX

## During the exam:

- Students are not permitted to leave the exam room for the duration of the exam.
- Students are encouraged to use the bathroom, if necessary, prior to the exam and if there is a medical concern to come speak to the teacher.
- Students should not be leaving their seat in the exam room under any circumstances without raising their hand and the supervisor or teacher coming to speak to them.
- If a student arrives one hour after the exam, they will not be permitted to sit the exam and will be given a different exam by the teacher at a time arranged by that individual teacher.
  - o If students know that they will be late or away from school for an exam, please speak to the teacher ahead of time to discuss this.